

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A confirmation system for confirming, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, comprising:

an owner registration apparatus placed in the facility and an owner confirmation apparatus placed in the facility,

the recording medium being capable of recording information on a use status of the recording medium in the facility,

wherein the owner registration apparatus comprises:

a recording medium reading part for reading information recorded on the recording medium,

a first biological information obtaining part for checking the use status of the recording medium in the facility from the information read by the recording medium reading part, determining that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility, and obtaining first biological information from an owner of the recording medium ~~in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility~~, and

a biological information storing part for storing the obtained first biological information in the recording medium; and

the owner confirmation apparatus comprises:

a recording medium reading part for reading the information recorded on the recording medium;

a second biological information obtaining part for checking the use status of the recording medium in the facility from the information read from the recording medium reading part, and obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented at a second, later time in the facility; and

a determining part for determining whether or not the owner at the time of the first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later time of presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first biological information stored in the recording medium with the second biological information obtained by the second biological information obtaining part.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A confirmation system according to claim 1, wherein the owner registration apparatus further comprises:

a read data checking part for checking the use status of the recording medium in the facility from the information read by the recording medium reading part, and checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization; and

a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the information on the use status of the recording medium in the recording medium, and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on the use status in the recording medium.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A confirmation system according to claim 2, wherein the owner confirmation apparatus further comprises:

a use status checking part for checking the use status of the recording medium in the facility from the information read by the recording medium reading part, and checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization; and

a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the information on the use status, and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on the use status in the recording medium.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A confirmation system for confirming, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, comprising:

an owner registration apparatus placed in the facility, an owner confirmation apparatus, and a database, accessible from the owner registration apparatus and the owner confirmation apparatus, for storing a use status of the recording medium in the facility so as to associate the use status with an identifier of the recording medium, wherein the owner registration apparatus comprises:

a recording medium reading part for reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium;

a first biological information obtaining part for determining that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility ~~obtaining first biological information from an owner of the recording medium in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility~~ based on the information on the use status extracted from the database, using the identifier read in the recording medium reading part as key information; and obtaining first biological information from an owner of the recording medium;

a biological information storing part for registering the first biological information in the database so as to associate the first biological information with the identifier;

the owner confirmation apparatus includes:

a recording medium reading part for reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium;

a second biological information obtaining part for obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented at second and later time in the facility based on the information on the use status extracted from the database, using the identifier read in the recording medium reading part as key information; and

a determining part for determining whether or not the owner at the time of the first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first biological information stored in the database, so as to be associated with the identifier, with the second biological information obtained in the second biological information obtaining part.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A confirmation system according to claim 4, wherein the owner registration apparatus further comprises:

a read data checking part for checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization, based on the information on a use state extracted from the database, using the identifier read in the recording medium reading part as key information; and

a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the information on a use status of the recording medium in the database and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on a use status in the database.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A confirmation system according to claim 5, wherein the owner confirmation apparatus further comprises:

a use status checking part for checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization, based on the information on a use status extracted from the database, using the identifier read in the recording medium reading part as key information; and

a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the information on a use status in the database, and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on a use status in the database.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for confirming, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, wherein:

an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus are located in the facility;

the recording medium is capable of recording information on a use status of the recording medium in the facility,

the owner registration apparatus reads information recorded on the recording medium, checks a use status of the recording medium in the facility from the read information, and determines whether the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility~~in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility,~~

obtains first biological information from an owner of the recording medium and registers the first biological information in the recording medium;

the owner confirmation apparatus reads the information recorded on the recording medium,

checks the use status of the recording medium in the facility from the read information, and in case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented at a second, later time in the facility obtains second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and

determines whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later time of presentation of the recording medium by comparing the registered first biological information with the obtained, second biological information.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for confirming , in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, wherein an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus are located in the facility and are capable of accessing a database for storing a use status of the recording medium in the facility so as to associate the use status with an identifier of the recording medium, comprising:

using the owner registration apparatus, reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium, and

determining whether the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility ~~in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility,~~ based on the information on the use status extracted from the database, using the identifier read from the recording medium as key information, and obtaining first biological information from an owner of the recording medium and storing the first biological information in the database so as to associate the first biological information with the identifier;

using the owner confirmation apparatus, reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium, and

in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is being presented a second, later time in the facility, based on information on the use status extracted from the database, using the identifier read from the recording medium as key information, obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and

determining whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second and later presentation of the recording medium by comparing the stored first biological information in, with the obtained, second biological information.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for controlling the computer to confirm, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, and wherein an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus are located in the facility, and the recording medium is capable of recording information on a use status of the recording medium in the facility, by:

controlling the owner registration apparatus to read information recorded on the recording medium,

to check the use status of the recording medium in the facility from the read information, and to determine whether the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility~~in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility,~~ to obtain first biological information from an owner of the recording medium and to store the first biological information in the recording medium,

controlling the owner confirmation apparatus to read information recorded on the recording medium,

to check the status of the recording medium in the facility from the read information, and in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a second, later time in the facility, to obtain second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and

to determine whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first biological information stored in the recording medium with the obtained second biological information.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for controlling the computer to confirm, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, and wherein an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus are located in the facility, by:

controlling the owner registration apparatus and the owner confirmation apparatus to access a database for storing a use status of the recording medium in the facility so as to associate the use status with an identifier of the recording medium;

controlling the owner registration apparatus to read the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium and determine whether the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility~~in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility,~~ based on the information on the use status extracted from the database, using the identifier read from the recording medium as key information, to obtain first biological information from the owner of the recording medium and to register the first biological information in the database so as to associate the first biological information with the identifier;

controlling the owner confirmation apparatus to read the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium and, in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented at a second, later time in the facility, based on information on the use

status extracted from the database, using the identifier read from the recording medium as key information, to obtain second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and

to determine whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first biological information stored in the database so as to be associated with the identifier with the obtained, second biological information.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for confirming ownership, comprising:
checking whether a recording medium is being presented for a first time; and
obtaining first biological information from a first owner of the recording medium and
registering the first biological information in the recording medium if the recording medium is
being presented for the first time.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method for confirming ownership of claim 11,
comprising further:

checking whether the recording medium is being presented for a second or subsequent
time; and

obtaining second biological information from a second owner of the recording medium
and determining whether the second owner is the same as the first owner by comparing the
second biological information to the first biological information.